

CHAIRMEN I'VE HAD

that occasion, I was accompanied to the platform by the minister, who, motioning me to sit down, advanced to the front, lowered his head, and said in solemn accents: "Let us pray." After I got seated, it took me fully ten minutes to make the people realize that they were not at church.

My other experiences in this line was still vainer, for the prayer was supplemented by the singing of hymns.

Verse. You may easily imagine that my first joke fell dead flat.

I have been introduced to an audience as "Moosehead," and, as you find it very difficult to bear with equanimity a chairman who maltrreated my name. But he is charming when compared to the one who in the midst of his introductory process turns to you and in a staccato voice, in a very audible all over the hall, asks: "How do you pronounce your name?"

Passing over chairman chatty and chairmen terse, chairman eloquent and chairman severe, I feel decidedly most kindly toward the silent chairman. He is very rare, but when met with is exceedingly precious. Why he exists, I cannot say, but I prize where he is to be met with. I know not. Whether he comes on to see that the lecturer does not run off before his time is

I have been introduced to an audience as Mounsbear O'Reel, and found it very difficult to bear with equanimity a chieftain

ing when compared to the one who in the midst of his introductory process turns to you, and in a stage whisper perfectly audi-

Passing over chairmen chatty and chairmen terse, chairmen eloquent and chairmen the reverse, I feel decidedly most kind-

precious. Why he exists, in certain institutions where he is to be met with, I know not. Whether he comes on to see that the lecturer does not run off before his time is another question.

ally, whether he is a successor of some venerable deaf and dumb founder of his society, whether he goes on with the lecturer to give a lesson of modesty to the public as who should say: "I could speak on it if I could, but I forbear." By his *raison d'être* what it may, we all love him. To the nervous novice he is doubtless a kind of quiet support, to the old stager he is as a picture unto the eye and as music unto the ear.

A BANKER'S RISE AND FALL

The Remarkable Experience of Financier
Dittman, of Philadelphia.
(Philadelphia Record.)

The story of the financial rise and fall of
Banker Joseph G. Dittman, coupled with
his subsequent disappearance, makes a most
interesting tale, and one that rivals many a
romance. Mr. Dittman's father was a

When a boy, young Ditman entered the employ of William H. Flitcraft, a paper dealer at Fifth and Minor streets. In course of time he rose to the position of salesman, and at the age of 28 years embarked in the paper business for himself on the small capital of \$1,000, borrowed from a friend, who was afterward repaid fourfold. Soon after this advent into business Mr. Ditman mar-

At the end of seven years Mr. Bulkley retired from the firm, and in addition to the

the two partners every year, Mr. Dittman handed the retiring partner a check for \$70,000 as his share in the capital of a concern that had begun business seven years before on a joint capital of \$30,000.

About four years ago he disposed of his business to A. G. Elliott & Co., and bound himself never to re-enter the paper trade in his city. When he retired he had a fortune, according to his own statement, within a fraction of \$500,000. He believed that a comfortable field lay before him as a money lender. But with all his

and it was not long before he discovered a big hole in his fortune. His old-time luck deserted him, and he got caught in so many unfortunate speculations that a short time ago he found himself stripped of his once handsome fortune. The blow was a heavy one, and as it now appears, was sufficient to weaken his mind; but he was careful not to allow his wife or family to obtain any knowledge of his financial losses.

Mrs. Dittman is regarded by her neighbors as a noble-minded woman. A creditor who was indebted to Mr. Dittman in the sum of

pled his cause with her husband. The creditor's wife also waited upon Mrs. Ditman and added her entreaties to those of her husband. The appeal was successful, and Mr. Ditman agreed not to levy upon the man's property. His kindness was poorly repaid, as he recovered only \$3,000 of the debt, yet it is stated that the creditor is now worth \$60,000, and lives in a style befitting the possessor of that sum.

All of the family believe that Mr. Ditman was drowned in the Schuykill on the night of the 10th inst.

HIS HUDSON RIVER BRIDGE.

Description of Gustave Lindenthal's Great
\$40,000,000 Project.
[Chicago Journal of Commerce.]

Doubtless the next generation will greatly
surpass the present in wealth and resources,
but it will have plenty of use for all its
money and all its ingenuity if half of the
great enterprises now being prepared for
it are carried into execution. Of one or more

ed out that a railroad will be laid in a tunnel under the river in time to bring visitors to the World's Fair in 1892; but even should that be done, more tunnels than one will be wanted, or else a bridge, or possibly, in course of time, both tunnels and bridges. Mr. Gustave Lindenthal, of Pittsburg, the well-known engineer, has planned a bridge from New Jersey to New York, which, it is computed, will cost \$40,000,000. The following description is given of this mammoth structure:

length, clearing the river, and two other spans, each over 2,500 feet, extending from piers on the shore to the anchorage on the other side. The structure is to be a suspension bridge, the towers 596 feet in height, almost double those of the Brooklyn bridge, which are 280 feet. From high water mark to the floor of the roadway is 20 feet, 20 feet more than that of the Brooklyn bridge.

The span between the towers is to be 850 feet, which is 1,255 longer than that of the Brooklyn bridge. The shore anchorage

The roadway is to be 85 feet wide, and will accommodate six railroad tracks. It will be supported by four cables, two on each side, passing over the towers and fastened to the anchorages at either end. These cables are to be four feet in diameter, and will consist of 15,000 steel wires each. The two cables on each side are joined together with lattice trusses of wrought iron, each one of which will weigh eight tons.

short intervals, which sustain the roadway. The main cables will weigh two tons the foot.

The full length of the bridge is to be masonry over 7,000 feet. On the New Jersey side the anchorage is to be placed at the foot of Union Hill in Hoboken, and in order to reach the grade, which at this point is 135 feet above the street level, the approach will have to commence near the Hackensack river.

DIAMONDS have advanced since July

ing of a movement to increase the market price of precious stones. We predict a further advance of from 50 to 75 per cent coming year. Our stock of diamonds as purchased in June just begets the advance, and we are still selling goods at the old prices. We take stock January 10, after which we will be compelled to advance our prices on diamonds to meet market prices. To have a large and complete stock. To counteract the purchase of diamonds, we would say, now is your time. M. Cohen, Diamond, Jewels and Jewellery.

... of the door.